Vol. 2000 No. 1 February 2000

North Dakota Chess Association

Dedicated to Chess and Education
www.geocities.com/NDCA/

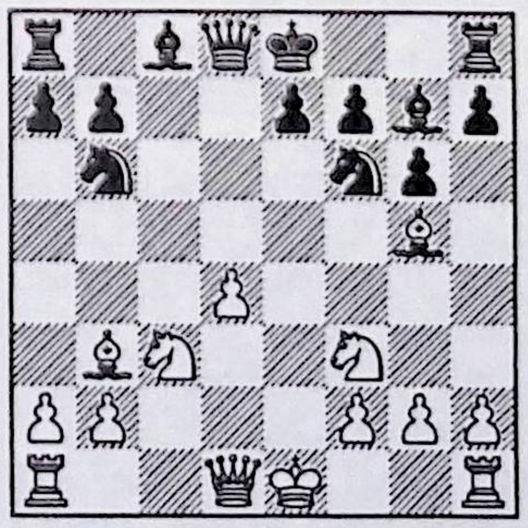
Face to Face With Mikhail Tal

[Rev. Glen Proechel] - The year was 1987. I was in Yugoslavia on vacation trying to improve my health, practice my languages (in this case Hungarian, Serbo-Croatian and Esperanto!), and just get some badly needed rest. I had no intention of playing chess. But in Yugoslavia, especially Serbia, chess players are everywhere and I happened to pick Subotica where, unbeknownst to me, the Interzonal was about to take place! Suddenly I was surrounded by the likes of Lev Alburt, Vasily Hort, Nigel Short, Jonathan Speelman, Vasily Smyslov, and Mikhail Tal! I merely went to the tournament to watch, but after some prodding by an acquaintance named Radmila, I very soon found myself in the thick of things. Thomas Ernst, the Swedish master was abandoned by his second. Ernst, who was lonely and needed an interpreter, soon asked me to take the position. My job had more to do with baby-sitting than it did with analyzing his games. No matter! I was actively involved in the Interzonal!

I was especially intrigued by the two Soviet representatives Smyslov and Tal. They were the two oldest competitors and both were former world champions! I actually got to kibitz some games between Tal and his second and to the amazement of all, I found some improvements in Tal's play. I should add, of course, that I wasn't drinking Slivovitz, the Yugoslav answer to ouzo or saki. Tal was. But I made an impression on Tal and he remembered me.

In the middle of the tournament there was a Sunday afternoon when no games were being contested. I checked out the resort hotel on the lake at nearby Palics (pronounced Palitch) where I knew a waiter. We frequently played life-size chess with huge pieces on an outdoor board. He took me by the hand and led me behind the hotel where Tal had agreed to play a simultaneous against all comers free of charge! Tal's first reaction when he saw me again was negative -- he remembered my kibitzing and he didn't want to play against me! Finally, he shrugged his shoulders and bashfully agreed to let me play.

Simultaneous Game, 1987
W: Mikhail Tal
B: Glen Proechel
1.e4 c6 (My infatuation with the Caro-Kann defense goes back many years, but how well I remember the match between Tal and Botvinnik and the innovations that Tal tried against Botvinnik's Caro! I couldn't believe I was playing the Caro-Kann against the great man himself!) **2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5** (In master play Tal almost always played 3.Nc3, but different rules of strategy apply to simultaneous games.) **4.c4 Nf6** (Here I am defending a Panov attack against the greatest attacking genious of the 20th century! Wow!) **5.Nc3 g6** (I prefer the Panov Fianchetto Defense to other lines which in my experience are riskier.) **6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 N8d7 9.Nf3 Nf6 10.Bg5 Bg7**



(My development is proceeding smoothly. This is another thing about

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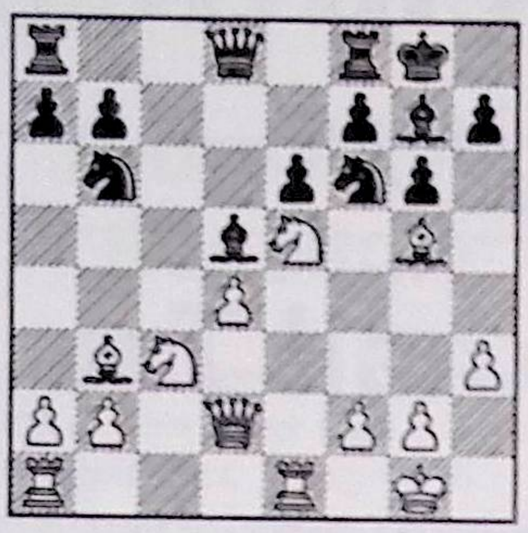
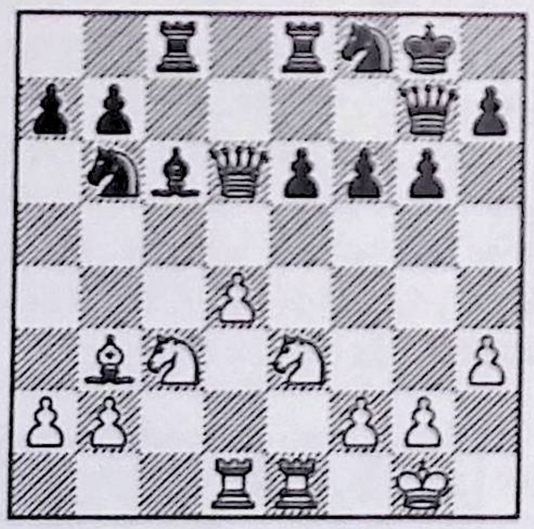
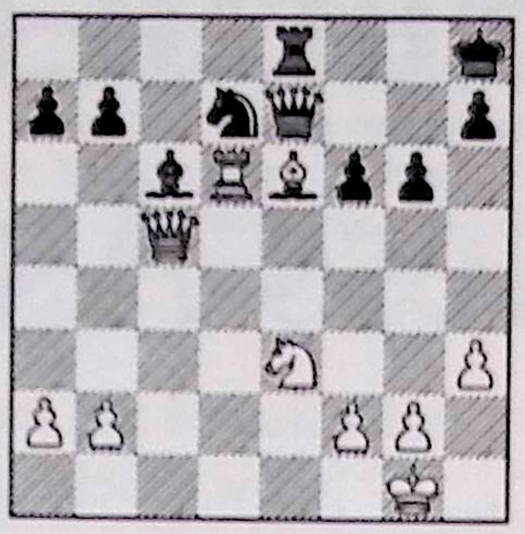
simul strategy. The simul master wants to keep the position simple. Complications will generally favor his opponent who has longer to think about the position.) **11.O-O O-O 12.h3 e6 13.Qd2 Bd7 14.Ne5 Bc6 15.Rfe1 Bd5**



(Exchanges on d5 will favor me. Putting a knight on a square in front of an isolated pawn is an old Nimzovitch trick which should work well even against the likes of Tal.) **16.Bc2** (No, thank you, is Tal's answer.) **16...Rc8 17.Rad1 Qe8** (Black has to break the pin on the KN and this is the best way to do it.) **18.Qf4 Nfd7 19.Ng4 f6 20.Bh6 Qf7 21.Bxg7 Qxg7 22.Ne3 Bc6 23.Bb3 Rfe8 24.Qd6 Nf8**



(I have frequently found the f8 square to be a cozy spot for my QN in the Caro-Kann. It has remarkable versatility and defensive power from that vantage point!) **25.d5 Rcd8 26.Qc5 exd5 27.Ncxd5 Ne6 28.Ne7+ Kh8** (Of course not 28...Qxe7 29.Qxe7 Rxe7 30.Rxd8+) **29.Bxe6 Rxd1 30.Rxd1 Qxe7 31.Rd6 Nd7**



(There are several traps here. If instead 31...Rd8 32.Rxc6! and Black can't recapture the rook because his queen would be hanging. Similarly, 31...Nc8 fails to 32.Rxc6! bxc6 33.Qxe7 Rxe7 34.Bxc8 with two minor pieces for the rook and in all likelihood a won ending.) **32.Bxd7 Bxd7 33.Qd4 Be6 34.Draw (½-½)**

Tal offered a draw and I accepted. If he had continued, for example with 34.f4 then I had 34...Bxh3 35.gxh3 Qxe3+ 36.Qxe3 Rxe3 37.Rxf6 Re7 with winning chances for Black.

It was interesting playing against Tal. He liked to sing to himself as he walked around the 15 or so tables. Before I met him in person I never realized that he was born with a birth defect, a right hand that was more of a claw than a hand. He smoked incessantly, was a hard drinker and was generally in poor health, all of which helped account for his premature death. Incidentally, he never understood that I was an American. Because I keep score with German Algebraic, he thought I was a local Yugoslav player! German and Yugoslav Algebraic notation are identical, because the names of the pieces all begin with the same letters in the two languages!

My most vivid memory of Tal is after a victory over a Yugoslav GM. He was in fine spirits in the newsroom and was doing a post-mortem of the game. Now here's a comical variation, he said in Russian. He then began to rattle off some of the most complicated, long-winded sacrificial variations I've ever seen. My jaw was hanging loose. So this is Tal, I thought to myself. No wonder he's earned the reputation he has!

NDCA Dues

NDCA dues are required of all chess players residing in North Dakota that play in USCF rated tournaments. Annual membership dues are $7 per year, or $5 for ages 18 and under. Please check the membership expiration date on your newsletter mailing label! Don't miss the next issue by letting your NDCA membership expire!

Dues, Chess Club Announcements, Tournament Announcements, game scores, and comments for the April 2000 newsletter should be sent to:

Brian E. Thompson
1257 North 3rd Street
Fargo, ND 58102-2726
or **brianethompson@yahoo.com**

Please remit dues by March 25, 2000 to allow time for processing. Materials submitted for inclusion in the April 2000 newsletter must be received by 5:00pm on March 30th.

Chess Clubs

The **ChessNuts Chess Club** meets every Friday night at the downtown Moorhead Subway from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. There are no fees or dues of any kind. Club ratings are generated based on G/15 results. For more information, contact Brian Thompson at (701) 298-0602.

The **UND Chess Club** meets Wednesday nights at 7:00p.m. in the Mandan room of the Student Union Building. There are no fees or dues of any kind. For more information, contact Dale Sailer at (701) 775-6692.

The **Bis-Man Chess Club** meets Thursday nights at 7:00p.m. at the Bismarck Barnes & Nobel Book Store. There are no fees or dues of any kind. Club ratings are generated based on club game results. For more information, contact Nolyn Falcon at (710) 223-9102.

Tournament Schedule

Rated Tournament - February 19, 2000 at West Fargo High School, 801 9th Street East. Register 8:30am - 9:00am, games begin at 9:15am. Bring USCF and NDCA membership info. Bring clocks if you have them.

Above 1200 rating - EF: $10, TC: G/90, Cash prizes.

Below 1200 rating - EF: $4, TC: G/60, Trophies, medallions and ribbons.

For info call Art Bayley at (701)239-4985 or cell (701)799-0128.

Unrated Tournament - March 4, 2000 at Centennial School, 4201 25th Street South, Fargo. Grades K-9 kids tourney. Register 9:00am - 9:45am with play beginning at 10:00am. EF: $3, Awards to the top 3 winners in each age group. Play 2 games, break for lunch, play 3 games after lunch. For info call Art Bayley at (701)239-4985 or cell (701)799-0128.

Rated Tournament - March 18, 2000 at West Fargo High School, 801 9th Street East. Register 8:30am - 9:00am, games begin at 9:15am. Bring USCF and NDCA membership info. Bring clocks if you have them.

Above 1200 rating - EF: $10, TC: G/90, Cash prizes.

Below 1200 rating - EF: $4, TC: G/60, Trophies, medallions and ribbons.

For info call Art Bayley at (701)239-4985 or cell (701)799-0128.

Unrated Tournament - April 1, 2000 at McKinley School, 2930 8th Street North, Fargo. Grades K-9 kids tourney. Register 9:00am - 9:45am with play beginning at 10:00am. EF: $3, Awards to the top 3 winners in each age group. Play 2 games, break for lunch, play 3 games after lunch. For info call Art Bayley at (701)239-4985 or cell (701)799-0128.

2000 ND Scholastic - April 15-16, 2000 at Mandan High School, Mandan. Four sections: High School (grades 10-12), Junior High (grades 7-9), Middle School (grades 4-6), and Primary School (grades 1-3). EF: $5 per player, NDCA membership required of High School and Junior High players. For more information, contact Brian Thompson at (701) 298-0602. Please see page 9 of this issue for the pre-registration form.

2000 ND Closed - May 12-14, 2000 at the Doublewood Inn, Bismarck.

Friday (May 12): Speed Chess Round Robin Tournament. Registration from 7:00pm to 7:20 pm with the first round beginning at 7:30pm. EF: $1.00 (winner takes all prize fund). NDCA membership required. Unrated.

Saturday (May 13): North Dakota Championship Tournament. Register at the Friday night Speed Tournament, or from 8:00am to 9:00am Saturday. EF: $25.00, with a $5 discount to those staying at the Doublewood Inn (room number required for discount). Juniors (18 and under) and Seniors (55 and over) receive a $5 discount. Six round, Swiss System computer pairing.

Saturday: 10am (G/60M), 1pm (G/90M), 4pm (G/90M), 8pm (G/2H).

Sunday: 9am (G/2H), 2pm (G/2H).

If all games in a round finish early, the directors will adjust the start times of the following rounds in order to finish each days' events as early as possible. One ½ point bye is available for rounds 1 thru 5 (notify the director before the start of the first round). Both USCF and NDCA memberships required. For more information, contact Brian Thompson at (701) 298-0602.

The Rest of the Story

[John Leitel] - I've admired Larry Evans for years. Even shook hands with him once upon a time following a tough loss in a simultaneous exhibition. It was with some surprise, therefore, that I noted his use of the word "peeing" in Chess Life recently (December 1999, page 15).

Did you happen to notice that? Evans talked of aging grandmasters losing ambition, "sleeping less and peeing more often." I don't think I've ever seen that word (or any form of it) in a chess magazine before. In our family we weren't allowed to use such words when I was growing up, and certainly one seldom saw them in print. I'm still not very much used to the idea even 40 years later, but I guess times change.

But how *much* do they change? That's the question. Consider this. (And I'm sure you can guess that the answer to the question is going to be yes, else why would I even bring it up?) Has the notorious "F-word" (or any form of it) ever appeared in Chess Life or any of its predecessor magazines? Indeed it has. And quite a while ago, too -- long before these more permissive times.

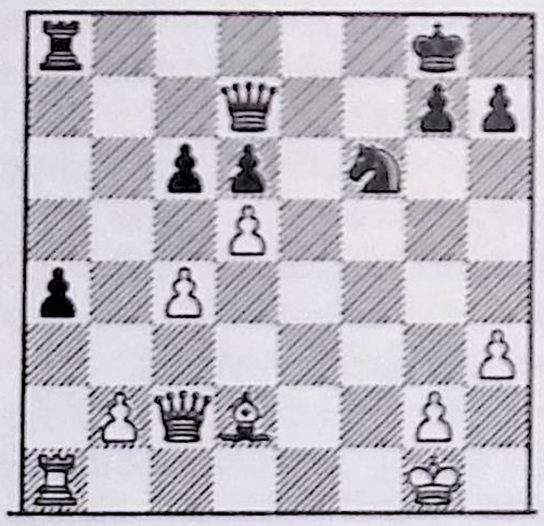
In the December 1956 issue of Chess Review magazine (postal game reports, page 380) an inoffensive gentleman named Mr. Fuchs had his moniker misspelled in most unfortunate fashion by the editors! It went something like this: "Section 55-N 129 -- Roth succumbs to . . . " Well, you get the idea.

The next month Chess Review did a very carefully worded correction, obviously trying to call as little attention to the original gaffe as possible. This was quite unlike a certain newspaper, which only made matters worse by printing the following legendary item: "We apologize for calling Lieutenant Flynn a 'defective on the police force' in yesterday's paper. Our readers will have

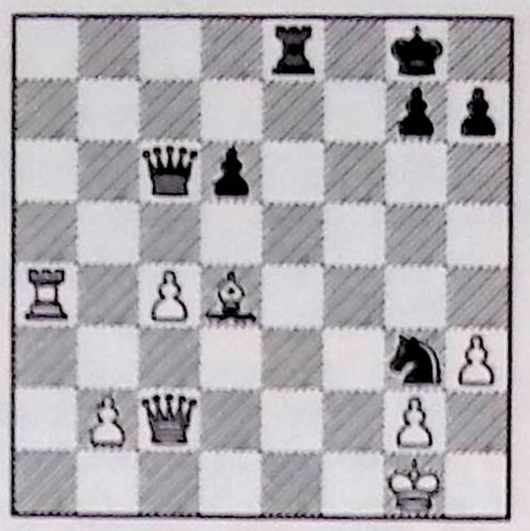
realized that this was a typographical error. The lieutenant is, of course, a *detective* on the police farce." Sometimes it's better to just leave something alone, I guess.

In the following postal game, never before published, an old friend of mine tangles with this same long-suffering Mr., uh, Fuchs who had been immortalized back in 1956. Let's hope our editor takes **great** care in setting the type! White steals a pawn but never gets a chance to use it thanks to some fancy stepping by Black's knight.

Postal Game 1959-1960
W: John L. Teitgen (Mosinee, WI)
B: William W. Fuchs (Larchmont, NY)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.O-O d6 8.Nd5 Na5 9.Nxe7 Qxe7 10.d4 Nxb3 11.axb3 Bg4 12.Qd3 O-O 13.d5 Ne8 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Qd7 16.Qd3 f5 17.exf5 Rxf5 18.f4 a5 19.c4 exf4 20.Rxf4 Rxf4 21.Bxf4 bxc4 22.bxc4 Nf6 23.Bd2 a4 24.Qc2 c6



(Far-seeing Black may already be looking ahead to move 34! Even ameteurs can sometimes accomplish this sort of thing in postal play, of course.) **25.Rxa4 Re8** (He continues to set things up just the way he wants.) **26.dxc6 Qxc6 27.Bc3 Ne4 28.Bd4 Ng3**



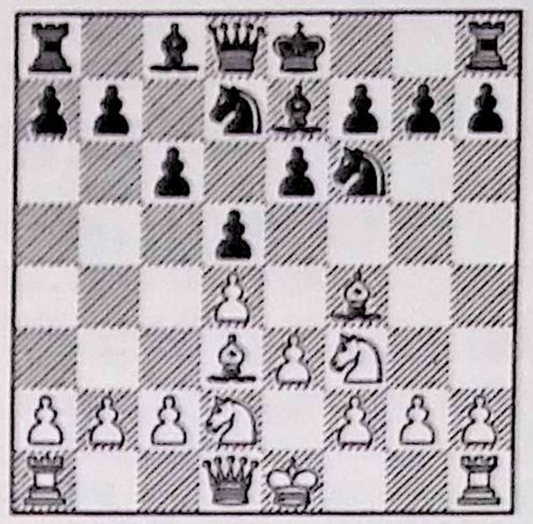
(Threatening 29...Re2) **29.Bf2 Ne2+ 30.Kh2 Nf4+ 31.Kg3** (If the bishop moves, again 31...Re2! And how else can White escape immediate mate other than by what he does try?) **31...Qxg2+! 32.Resigns (0-1)** (Because of 32.Kxf4 g5+ 33.Kf5 Re5+ 34.Kf6 Qf3+ and mate next move.)

'Check' It Out

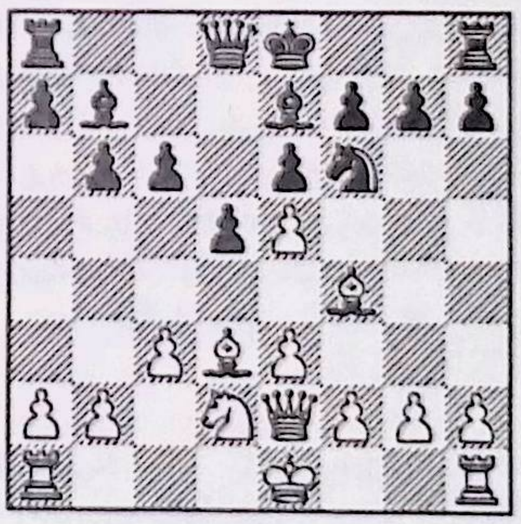
"A Threat is Stronger Than Its Execution"

[John Kasper] - I thought I had a reasonable plan for the 1999 ND Closed: take my time getting there, relax a little, and avoid the bashing my confidence would surely take if I played in the Friday night speed tournament! While I was serenely strolling about watching the in-progress speed tournament, however, Glen Proechel challenged me to some casual 5 minute games, and after two quick trouncings whatever confidence I might have had was gone. His quick grasp of positions and his speed in tactical situations were impressive. "Oh well", I thought, "at least I probably won't have to play him again." But then came round six in the Closed...

1999 North Dakota Closed, round 6
May 23, 1999
W: John Kasper (1766)
B: Glen Proechel (1930)
1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Be7 5.Nbd2 Nbd7 6.Bd3 (6.h3 to insure preservation of the bishop can be player here but the text is okay as well.) **6...c6** (This move was not in my database [Tascbase]. More usual seems to be 6...c5, for counterplay and to place tension on the center. Glen appears to be setting up a very solid position.)

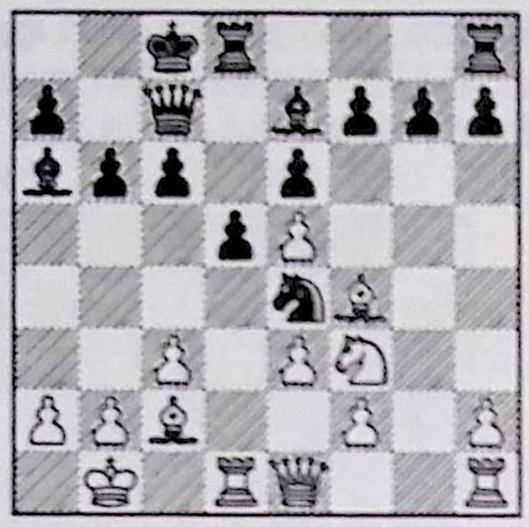


7.c3 b6 8.Ne5 Bb7 9.Qe2 Nxe5 10.dxe5 (White has tried to put some pressure on the e5 square, and by playing Qe2, has the option of O-O-O. This plan has seemingly become more dangerous because with the subsequent exchange on e5, the Nf6 must move, making the black kingside look more vulnerable. But Black has plans too...)

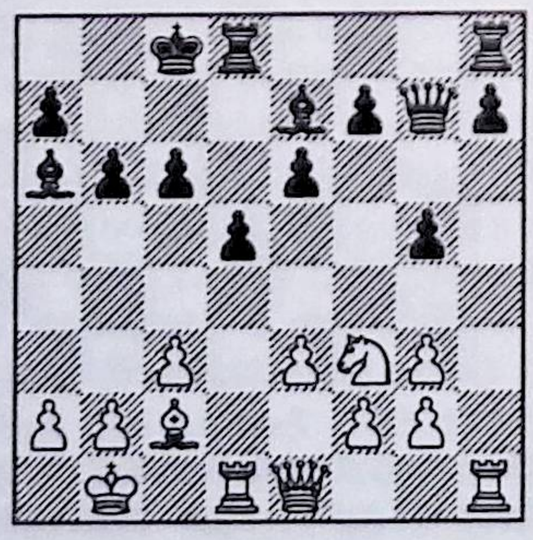


10...Nd7 11.O-O-O Qc7 12.Nf3 Nc5 13.Bc2 O-O-O 14.Kb1 Ba6 15.Qe1 Ne4 (14.Kb1 doesn't look good to me now; likely 14.Ng5 is a better try. But look what Glen has done in the last few moves! 10...Nf6-d7 and 11...Qc7 pressured the pawn on e5 which forced 12.Nd2-f3 which in turn eventually allowed Black to settle his knight at e4. Black also completed his Qside developement and played ...O-O-O, avoiding any immediate Kside danger. Also, 12...Nd7-c5 forced White to retreat

his bishop, allowing ...Ba6, improving the scope of that piece, forcing White to move his Queen and lose a tempo. But things are about to get potentially even worse for White: his next attempts to dislodge the black Ne4 give Glen a chance to show his tactical "stuff".)

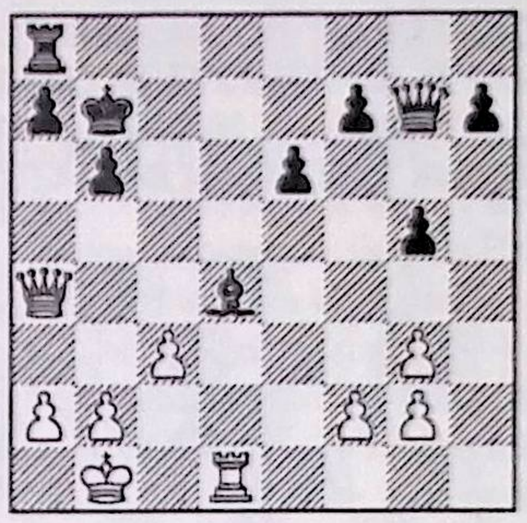


16.Nd2 g5 17.Bg3 Nxg3 18.hxg3 Qxe5 19.Nf3 Qg7 (Although this move seemingly holds the extra black pawn, I believe 19...Qc7 was better, since with the text the black queen is somewhat out of play. After ...Qc7, either 20.Rxh7 or 20.Bxh7 would be very dangerous for and probably loses material for White. In the first instance Black would counter with ...Rxh7 and after Bxh7 would play ...g5 with an eventual ...f5, trapping the Bh7. In the second instance Black would play an immediate ...g5 with an eventual ...f5 [depending on where the Nf3 goes], again trapping the Bh7. I think it was Lasker who said, "a threat is stronger than its execution" and this seems to help White a bit in this situation, although I must admit I didn't think of these variations until after the game.)



(So Black remains with an extra pawn and the Bishop pair. Yet White has some reasons to be hopeful. As stated, Black's queen is somewhat out of play. White has some pressure down the h file and specifically at the pawn on h7. As above, this danger to the h7 pawn is more "apparent" than "real" but neither can Black abandon h7 completely or he will lose both the pawn and the h file to White. Additionally, Black's pawns on both Kside and Qside are a little weakened, and White's knight has potential use of d4 or e5 unless Black loosens his pawn structure still further. Together, these features suggest that Black might have some difficulty defending if White can open the position so as to activate his pieces fully. Normally the side with the two Bishops prospers as the position opens up, but White has little to lose in the sense that Black has already "activated" his "bad" bishop on a6.) **20.e4 dxe4** (This move tends to aid White's strategy.) **21.Qxe4** (The White queen becomes powerfully centralized.) **21...Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Bb7 23.Qa4** (White threatens Qxa7, but the question again arises: is the threat more "apparent" than "real"?) **23...Kc7**

(After Glen's clever reply I thought Qxa7 loses to ...Ra8, when the queen seems trapped, and I immediately stopped looking ot that line of play. However, the threat has another point: 24.Qxa7 Ra8 25.Rd7+! and suddenly Black loses, dropping the bishop and rook to the white queen. Glen showed me this combo after the game, and is the reason behind his 24th move, shown subsequently. So at this point I guess we could say 24.Qxa7 is a threat which allows a counterthreat by Black which in turn is refuted by a threat to the counterthreat!) **24.Nd4** (Again, I was oblivious to the above variations.) **24...Ra8 25.Be4** (White zeros in on one of Black's weak points.) **25...Bc5 26.Bxc6 Bxd4** (Of course, 26...Bxc6 loses to 27.Qxc6+ and 28.Nb5.) **27.Bxb7** (Another fault with ...Ra8 is that this capture threatens the rook.) **27...Kxb7** (Interposing ...Qg6+ wouldn't help since White can safely reply Kc1.)



28.Qd7+ (If now 28...Ka6 29.Rxd4 forces Black to sac his queen for the white rook to avoid mate.) **28...Kb8** (The black rook is sealed off.) **29.Rxd4 Qe5** (There was no way to escape the mating net without giving up a lot of material.) **30.Rc4 Qe1+ 31.Kc2 Qe2+ 32.Kb3 Resigns (1-0)**

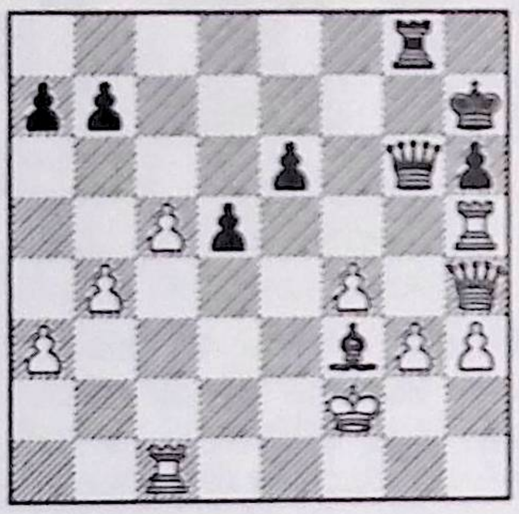
I would appreciate any feedback or comments on my articles so far, whether favorable or not. My e-mail address: jkasper@rrv.net or write to:

John Kasper
1000 Oakfield Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Any input is welcomed! It may be worth noting I always use my computer programs to help with analysis and accuracy. Finallly, many thanks to Brian Thompson for the countless hours he spends working on this publication and running the ChessNuts Chess Club. He's added a lot to ND chess! [Thanks, John! - BT]

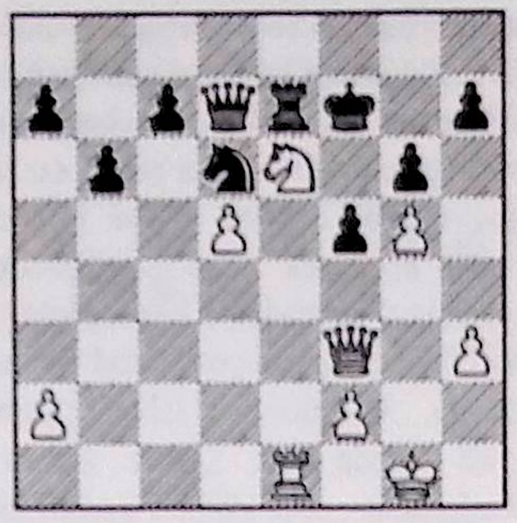
Featured Games

1996 ND State Postal Championship
The London System
W: Brian Thompson
B: Todd Wolf
1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.c4 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 O-O 7.h3 Nbd7 8.a3 Bxd2+ 9.Nxd2 c5 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.b4 Nce4 12.c5 Nc3 13.Qb3 Nfe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Bd3 Qf6 16.Rc1 Rac8 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 18.O-O Qg6 19.f3 Bd3 20.Rf2 Bc4 21.Qb2 f5 22.Be5 Qe8 23.Bxg7 Rf7 24.Be5 h6 25.Rd2 Kh7 26.Rd4 Qg8 27.Rh4 Qg5 28.Qf2 Qg8 29.Rh5 Qg6 30.Qh4 Rg8 31.g3 f4 32.Bxf4 Rxf4 33.exf4 Be2 34.Kf2Bxf3



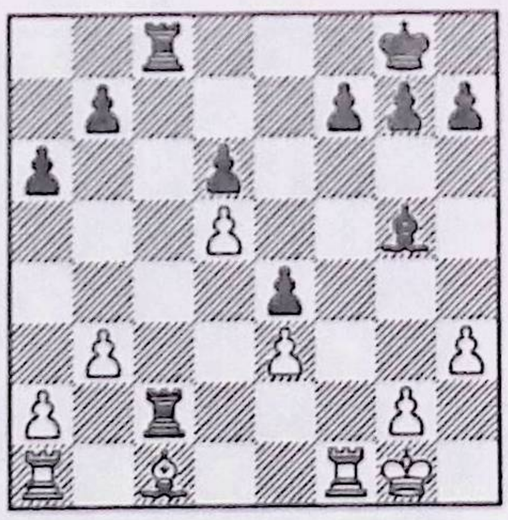
35.Rxh6+! Black Resigns (1-0)

Internet Chess Club
December 5, 1999
W: JohnK (1277)
B: LostKnight (1489)
(This game ends with a cute check-mate, with Black's pieces all around his king yet helpless to prevent his demise.) **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.O-O d6 7.d4 Nge7 8.Bg5 f6 9.Bd2 exd4 10.cxd4 Bxd2 11.Qxd2 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Re1+ Kf7 14.Qf4 Be6 15.Bxd5 Bxd5 16.Nc3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Re8 18.d5 Rxe1+ 19.Rxe1 Ne7 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.h3 g6 22.Qf3 Nf5 23.Re6 Kf7 24.Re1 Qd7 25.Rd1 Re8 26.Ne4 Qe7 27.Re1 Qd8 28.Rd1 Nd6 29.Nc5 b6 30.Ne6 Qe7 31.Re1 Qd7 32.Ng5+ Kg7 33.Ne6+ Kf7 34.g4 Re7 35.g5 f5**



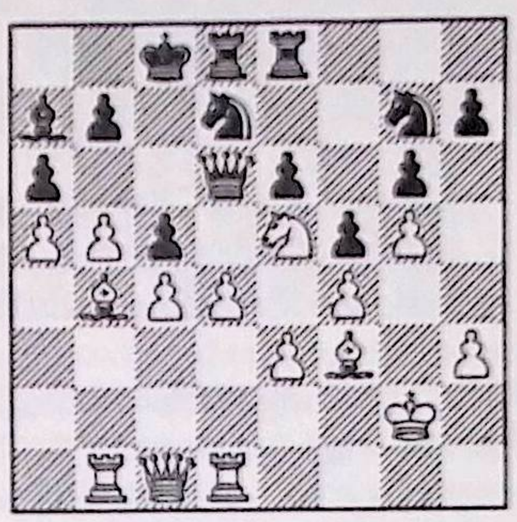
36.Qc3! Ne4 37.Qg7+ Ke8 38.Qf8++ (1-0)

1996 ND State Postal Championship
Sicilian Defense - Morra Gambit
W: John Allensworth
B: Rick Case
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.O-O Nf6 8.Qe2 Be7 9.Rd1 e5 10.Be3 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Rc8 13.Bb5 a6 14.Bxc6+ Rxc6 15.Bg5 O-O 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Rc2 18.Bc1 Qb6 19.Rf1 Rfc8 20.Qa3 e4 21.Qe3 Qxe3 22.fxe3 Bg5 23.b3



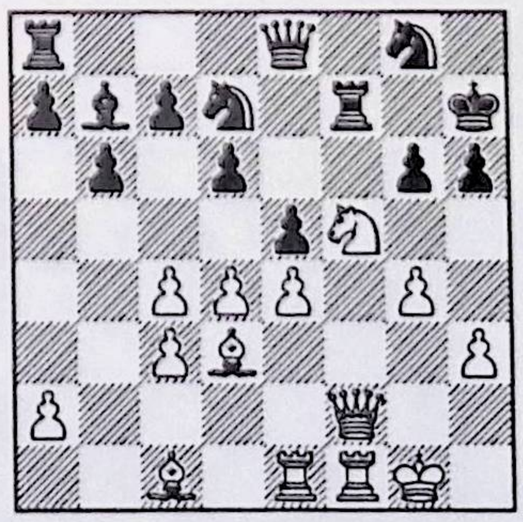
23..Rxc1! White Resigns (0-1)

Casual Game
Bird's Opening
W: Rob Brantseg
B: Tom Brantseg
(The following game was played by two brothers that live in our neighborhood. Neither have played rated chess, yet they were able to keep an accurate score of the game, and were able to identify the opening. The quality of play shows promise. These fellows need to visit a chess club and play on a more regular basis!) **1.f4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.d4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.h3 e6 6.g4 Be4 7.Bg2 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 Qd6 9.O-O O-O-O 10.Bd2 Rhe8 11.Ne5 Rf8 12.a3 Ba5 13.Nb5 Qe7 14.b4 Bb6 15.Nc3 Qd6 16.g5! Ne8 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Bxe4 g6 19.Rb1 Ng7 20.a4 a6 21.a5 Ba7 22.Qc1 Nh5 23.Kg2 f5 24.Bf3 Ng7 25.c4 Rfe8 26.b5 Nb8 27.Bb4 c5? 28.Rd1 Nd7?**



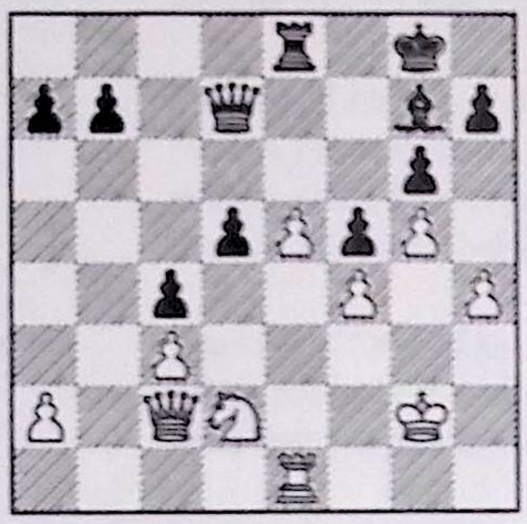
29.dxc5 Qc7 30.b6 Resigns (1-0)

1996 ND Postal Championship
Nimzo-Indian Defense
W: Cliff Berger
B: Brent Askvig
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 b6 5.e3 Bb7 6.Bd3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.O-O O-O 9.Qc2 f5 10.Ne1 d6 11.f3 Nf6 12.e4 fxe4 13.fxe4 Nbd7 14.Nf3 e5 15.Bb2 Ng4 16.Rae1 Qe8 17.Bc1 h6 18.h3 Ngf6 19.Nh4 Rf7 20.Nf5 Kh7 21.g4 Ng8 22.Qf2 g6



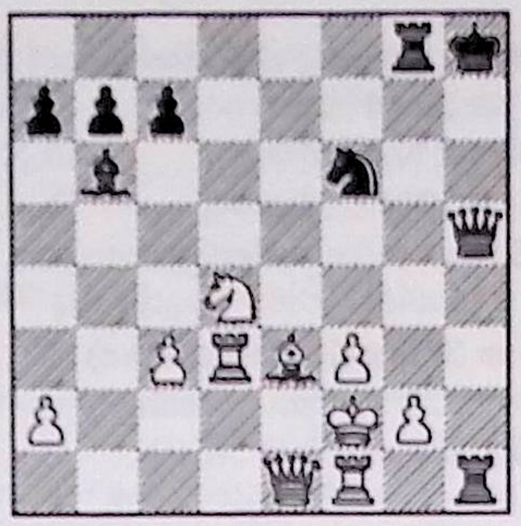
23.Nxd6 Rxf2 24.Nxe8 Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1 Rxe8 26.Rf7+ Kh8 27.Rxd7 exd4 28.cxd4 Black Resigns (1-0)

1996 ND State Postal Championship
Sokolsky's Opening (The Orangutan)
W: Chris Mulligan
B: Brian Thompson
1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.e3 O-O 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.c3 Be7 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.d4 d5 9.Bd3 Re8 10.O-O Bg4 11.Nbd2 Ne7 12.h3 Bh5 13.Qc2 Bg5 14.g4 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 g6 16.g5 Bg7 17.Nh4 Qd7 18.Kg2 f5 19.f4 Rac8 20.Nhf3 c5 21.Rh1 c4 22.Qc2 Nc6 23.h4? Rxe3 24.Rhe1 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Re8 26.Ne5 Nxe5 27.dxe5



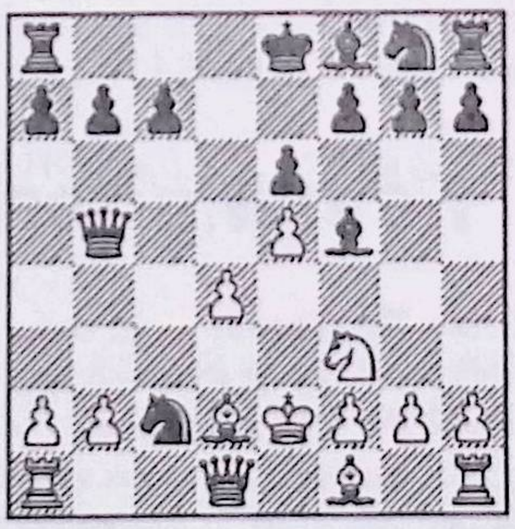
27..d4!? 28.Kg3 d3 29.Qd1 b5 30.Rh1 h5 31.gxh6ep Bxh6 32.h5 g5 33.Rg1 g4 34.Rg2 Qc7 35.Rf2 b4 36.Qc1 Rxe5! 37.fxe5 Qxe5+ 38.Kg2 bxc3 39.Qa1 Bxd2 40.Rxd2 Qe4+ 41.Kg3 cxd2 42.Qf6 d1=Q White Resigns (0-1)

The Freeze - round 4
January 22, 2000
W: Bob Spiess
B: Chris Bakken
(This game was played on board 1 in the final round of the tournament. The winner of this game would in all likelihood also win the tournament. In a game filled with tactical ideas, it was fitting that it ended with a rook sacrifice to force the king into checkmate. Well played by both sides, this game is a treat to play over.) **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 d6 7.Qb3 Nf6 8.Bxf7+ Kf8 9.O-O Qe7 10.Bc4 Bb6 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nbd2 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 Be6 14.Qd3 Rd8 15.Nd4 Kf7 16.N2f3 h6 17.e5 Ng4 18.exd6 Qxd6 19.Qe4 Rhe8 20.Bf4 Qd5 21.Qc2 Kg8 22.h3 Nf6 23.Bxh6 Qh5 24.Nxe6 Rxe6 25.Bf4 Kh8 26.Rad1 Rde8 27.Nd4 Re4 28.Be3 g5 29.Rd3 g4 30.Qe2 Qe5 31.hxg4 Rxg4 32.Qf3 Rh4 33.Qg3 Qh5 34.f3 Rg8 35.Qe1 Rh1+ 36.Kf2**

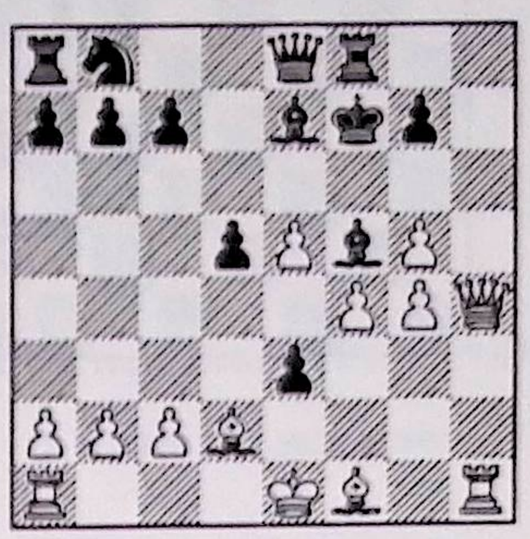


36...Rxg2+! 37.Kxg2 Qh2++ (0-1)

ICC Blitz Chess
W: VSM53
B: Dale Hagen
1.e4 d5 2.e5 Bf5 (This one comes about from a Center Counter Gambit Declined. This is another opening that's fun for speed chess!) **3.d4 e6 4.c4 Nc6 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Nf3 Nb4 7.Nc3 Qa5 8.Bd2 Nc2+ 9.Ke2 Qa6+ 10.Nb5 Qxb5++ (0-1)**



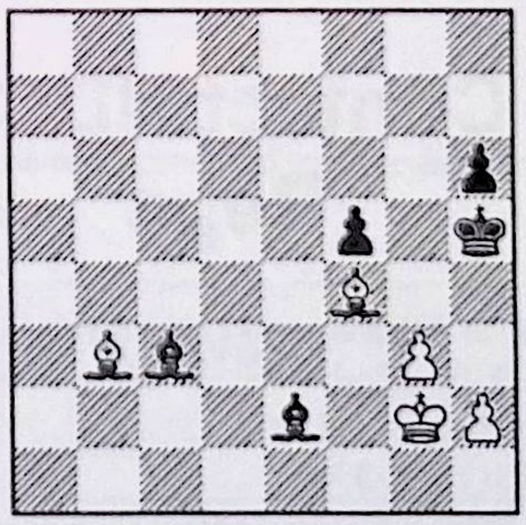
The Freeze - round 2
January 22, 2000
W: Brian Thompson
B: Felipe Estrada
(This game was a tough loss for me as White. I felt as if I was in control through the early stages of the game, yet I became so focussed on the flow of my play that I lost sight of my opponent's threats.) **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.dxe5 Nxe4 6.Nxe4 fxe4 7.Ng5 d5 8.f4 Be7 9.h4 O-O 10.Bd2 h6 11.Qh5 Bd7 12.Qg6 Bf5 13.Qh5 hxg5 14.hxg5 Qe8 15.Qh4 Kf7 16.g4! e3?!**



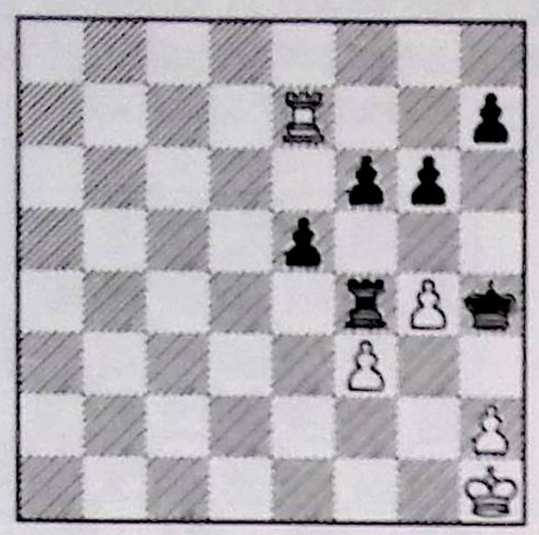
17.Bxe3?? (The losing move. Either 17.gxf5 or 17.Bc3 should win. The rest of the game was played solidly by Black, who managed to seize the initiative and eliminate all danger to his king.) **Bxc2 18.f5 Bb4+ 19.Kf2 Qxe5 20.Qh5+ Ke7 21.Be2 d4 22.Rh3 dxe3+ 23.Rxe3 Bc5 24.f6+ gxf6 25.g6 Qxe3+ 26.Ke1 Bd3 27.Qh2 Nc6 28.Qxc7+ Ke6 29.Resigns (0-1)**

Tactics Teasers

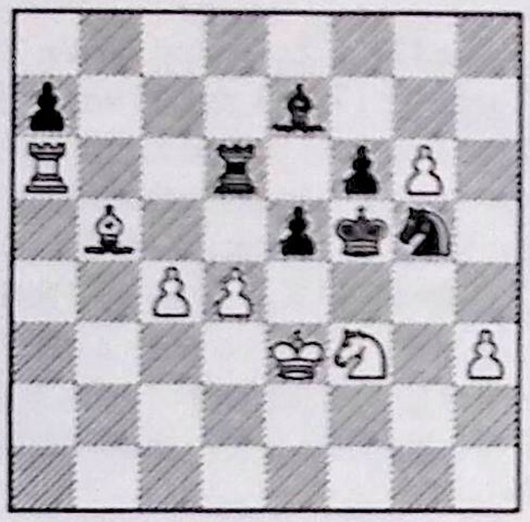
In the following positions, can you find the best move?



A. White to play, and mate in 2.



B. White to play, and mate in 2.



C. White to play, and mate in 2.

Answers to Tactics Teasers:

A) 1.Bf7+ Kg4 2.h3++
B) 1.Rxh7+ Kg5 2.h4++
C) 1.Nh4+ Ke6 2.d5++

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Post Mortem

[Brian Thompson] - In order to be published, all correspondence must include the member's name. Material will be included as space allows, and may be edited to fit the space that is available.

A big thanks to Dave Koch for his work in lining up the site for the 2000 Scholastic Tournament! The tourney is scheduled for April 15th and 16th, so get those income tax returns filed a day or two early, and plan on another fun weekend of chess!

Thanks to Glen Prochel for his fine first article in the NDCA newsletter! We look forward to more in the issues to come...

[Dale Sailer] - My internet provider thequest went out of business just before Christmas. Please note my new email address below:

dsailer@uffdaonline.net

2000 Scholastic Pre-Registration

Date: April 15-16, 2000
Location: Mandan High School, 905 8th Avenue NW, Mandan

Sections:			
	High School	(grades 10, 11, 12)	pairings favor individual performance
	Junior High School	(grades 7, 8, 9)	pairings favor individual performance
	Middle School	(grades 4, 5, 6)	pairings favor team performance
	Primary	(grades 1, 2, 3)	pairings favor team performance

Entry fee: High School and Junior High: $10 per player, which includes a one year NDCA membership. Current NDCA members pay only $5.
Middle School and Primary: $5 per player.

Prizes: Individual and team prizes awarded for each section. First place individuals will receive trophies and a one year NDCA membership. Second and Third place individuals will receive trophies (tiebreak used). First place team in each section (1 team per school) will receive a team trophy. Each member of the first place team will receive a one year NDCA membership.

Teams: Teams are formed by chess players in the same section and from the same school. Each team is represented by all of the students from their school, with the top four scores from the group used as the team score. If there are fewer than four players from a school, they may still form a team, but they will have fewer scores to pool for their team.

Rounds: High School and Junior High Sections:
Saturday, April 15th: 11:00am / 2:00pm / 5:00pm
Sunday, April 16th: 11:00am / 2:00pm
Middle School and Primary Sections:
Saturday, April 15th: 10:30am / 11:30am / 1:30pm / 2:30pm / 3:30pm

Registration: High School and Junior High Sections: 10:00am to 10:30am, Saturday, April 15th at site.
Middle School and Primary Sections: 9:30am to 10:00am, Saturday, April 15th at site.

Pre-Register: To pre-register, send the COMPLETED form below WITH ENTRY FEES before April 1st, 2000 to:
Brian E. Thompson
1257 North 3rd Street
Fargo, ND 58102-2726
If any of the information is missing or the entry fee is not enclosed, the player is NOT pre-registered and must register with a tournament director BEFORE the end of the registration period for his or her section.

2000 North Dakota Scholastic Chess Tournament
April 15-16, 2000

Player Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

School Name: _____

Section: ☐ HS ☐ JHS ☐ MS ☐ PS

Entry Fee Enclosed: _____

More Info: Contact Brian Thompson at (701) 298-0602 or email: **BrianEThompson@yahoo.com**

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